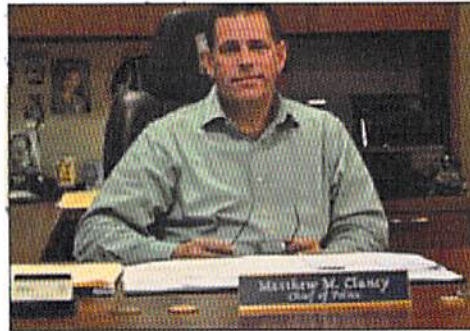


# Meet Duxbury

## Matthew Clancy

Chief of Police, Duxbury Police Department



Chief Clancy joined the force at the Duxbury Police Department in May 2010.

BY: JP O'NEIL,  
CLIPPER INTERN

Police Chief Matt Clancy says Duxbury is a fortunate place for him to be.

"As a native of Rockland, I spent time in Duxbury as a kid and knew what a great community it was," Clancy said. "It was a tremendous opportunity."

Clancy is currently in his fifth year as Police Chief at Duxbury however, he has been a police officer for 33 years. Previously, Clancy was the Chief of Plympton, and spent time in the police departments of Mashpee, Rockland and Braintree.

"In those towns there wasn't a lot of home grown talent," he said. "There would be one or two officers that grew up in town, but predominantly it was folks from outside of the community that came in and populated the police force. But [in Duxbury] it's different."

The majority of the force grew up in town and many still live here, Clancy explained. "Because of that there is that real strong connection and I think it's a huge positive."

he said. "That is absolutely unique to have that many people who grew up in town and want to serve."

Clancy quickly discovered while growing up that he wanted to be helping others. "I've never been a fan of the bully, of the person that's going to take advantage of someone because of a perceived weakness or vulnerability," Clancy said. "I always wanted to be involved in righting that wrong." For Clancy, his inspiration to become a police officer came from his town Safety Officer in Rockland. The Safety Officer made presentations to the public schools about what it means to help people and be a police officer. A number of years later, the same town safety officer had gone up the ranks to become the Chief of Rockland PD and he appointed Clancy as a Rockland officer.

"I'm a strong advocate that [policing] is a profession," Clancy said. "I put a tremendous amount of emphasis and effort into fostering the professionalism of law enforcement. I'm really focused on making sure that we're using the latest and best practices. We look at any type of new technology or equipment that can increase our jobs." Taking short cuts to get the job done is not something Clancy believes in. While performing his duty as a police officer during the day, Clancy would take night classes and weekend classes to get his degree. He also had a family to take care of too.



**The Duxbury Police station sits in its current location on Mayflower Street.  
The building opened in June 2013.**

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"So it was in between working a lot of overtime trying to pay the bills and feed some young mouths, I was also taking the classes," he said. "But I got it done. It took about four or five years to get the bachelors degree but that was all while I was working as a patrolmen." Clancy received his masters degree in 2009 while he was the Police Chief of Plympton.

"Looking back it was a ton of work, I'm so glad it's over," he said. "But I loved it, I liked the electives. I loved some of the ones that weren't law enforcement too, like psychology, sociology, and those type of classes where I'm the only cop in the class." For the longest time law enforcement was just a civil service job, but as its evolved, it has become far more technical and more detailed. Right now, a college degree is highly preferred but not mandatory. However, Clancy feels that a college degree should be a mandatory minimum qualification. "Beyond just getting that core education and all the criminal justice pieces of it, the in-classroom setting with people from all walks of life, with all different kinds of backgrounds gets you to see the world with a broader perspective," Clancy stated.

Clancy is very proud to be the Chief of such an extraordinary police department.

"I think 10 years from now, if I have moved on, it would be a tremendous personal success to have the next chief come from within. We have a lot of talented folks here," Clancy said. "That is a very high goal of mine because the chief hasn't been promoted from within the department since since the early 80s or late 70s."